

**From:** John B. Proffitt  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 11:28am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear DOJ,

Thanks for undertaking a legal battle against Microsoft on behalf of the American nation. You fought a good fight, but it looks as though Microsoft will emerge essentially unscathed. Microsoft may have lost the judgement, but no effectively punitive measures are forthcoming as a result of the antitrust action. Considering the cost of the case to the taxpayer, one might fairly characterize the outcome as a Pyrrhic victory.

Note that I am in no way personally opposed to Microsoft Corporation. I use their software products daily at home and at work. Through long habituation I have come to prefer the Wintel computing environment over available competition. Yet I believe it may be time to bring Microsoft to heel.

There are negative aspects of Microsoft's business practices that you chose not to address in your brief. But more than this, there is the general condition that corporations wield too much power in this country. They abuse their customers, bamboozle their investors and thumb their nose at governments. When called to account for their actions they simply hire more lawyers and disburse more campaign contributions. Justice, apparently, is for sale in the United States. If we are to reverse this trend, there is no better place to start than with Microsoft.

Our leaders must be able to see through an incessant deluge of advertising. They must be capable of resisting the lure of short-term capital gains. If we, the people, cannot regain control of the tiller of the ship of state, if we cannot assert our will to govern with fairness and wisdom, then it will be time for a second American Revolution. The first one will have failed.

John B. Proffitt